



United States Department of Agriculture

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# News Release

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## **USDA Announces Recent Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act Enforcement Actions**

WASHINGTON, February 14, 2014 --The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is continuing to move swiftly and consistently to take enforcement action in response to animal welfare violations. As part of its effort to make its actions transparent and accessible to the public, APHIS is highlighting enforcement actions taken in response to violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and Horse Protection Act (HPA).

Copies of documents relating to the actions listed below, as well as copies of official warnings, can be viewed at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/enforcementactions>.

During the month of January, APHIS filed administrative complaints alleging that the following persons violated the AWA or HPA:

HPA Docket No. 14-0057, 14-0058; Timothy Lee Smith and Mark West.

HPA Docket No. 14-0059; Evergeen Horse Farm, Inc.

HPA Docket No. 14-0056; SHOW, Inc.

The following persons entered into pre-litigation settlement agreements (also known as stipulations) in connection with alleged violations of the AWA or HPA:

APHIS Case No. IL130057-AC; Amos and David Diener.

APHIS Case No. CA120772-AC; University of California, Berkeley.

APHIS Case No. DC130005-AC; MedStar Health Research Institute, Inc. a/k/a George Hyman Memorial Research.

APHIS Case No. MO130037-AC; Valente Rios.

APHIS Case No. PA130006-AC; Zoological Society of Pittsburgh.

USDA's administrative law judges and judicial officer issued decisions and orders under the AWA or HPA involving the following persons:



AWA Docket No. 13-0334; Nancy Schulz.

AWA Docket No. 13-0362; Kenneth Schroeder.

AWA Docket No. 14-0023; Beverly Ann Fields d/b/a B & B Kennel.

AWA Docket No. 13-0248; Jambbas Ranch Tours, Inc.

HPA Docket No. 12-0019; Jack G. Heffington.

HPA Docket No. 13-0250; Kasey Kesselring.

HPA Docket No. 13-0231 and 13-0249; James Wayne Dean d/b/a Wayne Dean Stables.

HPA Docket No. 13-0297; Bill Gray.

HPA Docket No. 13-0298; Sandra L. Shumate-Tysor.

HPA Docket No. 13-0296; Tim Gray d/b/a Southern Comfort Facilities.

HPA Docket No. 13-0344; Bradley Davis.

HPA Docket No. 13-0369; Robert Jones.

The AWA requires that minimum standards of care and treatment be provided for certain animals bred for commercial sale, used in research, transported commercially or exhibited to the public. It excludes those animals raised for food or fiber. Persons who operate facilities in these categories must provide their animals with adequate care and treatment in the areas of housing, handling, sanitation, nutrition, water, veterinary care and protection from extreme weather and temperatures.

To ensure that its licensees are meeting the AWA standards, APHIS inspectors conduct routine, unannounced inspections of all licensed facilities. Violations of the AWA can lead to penalties, including official warnings, civil penalties and license suspensions/revocations. For more information on the inspection and enforcement processes, visit APHIS' animal care website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare>.

The HPA is the federal law that prohibits horses subjected to a practice called soring from participating in shows, sales, exhibitions and auctions. Soring is a cruel and abusive practice used to accentuate a horse's gait. APHIS works actively with the horse industry to protect against such abuse, ensuring that only sound and healthy horses participate in shows, sales, exhibitions and auctions. APHIS' ultimate goal is to end the inhumane practice of soring completely.

The HPA authorizes APHIS to issue civil penalties and to disqualify violators from participating in horse shows, exhibitions and sales. Both the AWA and HPA contain criminal penalties as well.



Note to reporters: USDA news releases, program announcements and media advisories are available on the Internet and through really simple syndication (RSS) feeds. Go to the APHIS news release page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/newsroom/news> and click on the RSS feed link.

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